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EXAMINER

LEE, TOMMY D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/459,202	MORI, YUKIKAZU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thomas D. Lee	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 35 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/26/07.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office action is responsive to Applicant's AMENDMENT, filed June 5, 2007.

Claims 1-35 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed in response to the rejections of claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as set forth in the prior Office action mailed March 12, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that the cited prior art (U.S. Patent 5,381,527 (Inniss et al.)) "proposes that prior to message transmission, the user first prioritizes a plurality of available alternate distribution channels (and corresponding alternate distribution media) whereby in the event transmission via a selected alternate distribution channel having the highest priority fails to successfully transmit the message, the next distribution channel in the predetermined priority order will be used to attempt transmission," and thus "does not disclose or suggest allowing the user sending the facsimile document to use input means to select any one of the plurality of communication modes available for communication with a designated destination , and then request that the image information for the facsimile document, obtained from the scanning of the document, be transmitted to the corresponding address of the designated destination through the selected communication mode, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1 of this application." (current amendment, page 21).

Contrary to Applicant's assertion, Inniss clearly teaches user selection of any one of a plurality of communication modes via input means. Inniss, at column 3, lines 36-40, states: "Utilizing primary electronic mail priority table 40, a user may specify one of a variety of distribution media as noted within Media column 42, such as physical delivery, facsimile, telephone, voice mail, or electronic mail."

Applicant further states that "while the system proposed in Inniss allows the user to predetermine the order in which the system will automatically select alternate distribution channels (for all messages) in the event that a previously selected distribution channel fails to transmit the message, the user is unable to select the ultimate communication mode in which the designated image information is to be transmitted. In contrast, the feature of allowing the user to select the ultimate communication mode from amongst a plurality of available communication modes, as discussed in the present application (for example, on page 13), is an important feature to users because an available communication mode may not be well suited to transmitting the particular document image information that the user intends to transmit. In contrast, Inniss, as pointed out in the Summary section thereof, is motivated by automatic selection of alternate distribution media, without user selection." (current amendment, pages 21-22, emphasis by Applicant).

Contrary to Applicant's assertion, Inniss clearly teaches selection of alternate distribution media by user selection. Inniss, at column 3, lines 58-65, states: "For example, still referring to FIG. 2, it will be noted that as listed in Media column 42, if a message was not successfully transmitted due to a failure of a selected distribution

channel, *the user has selected facsimile as a first alternate distribution media.* Therefore, if distribution channel 36, utilized for facsimile 28 is unavailable, *the user has selected voice telephone as the next alternate distribution media to be utilized.”* (emphasis added). Whether or not Inniss enables a user to select the *ultimate* communication mode is moot, for Applicant’s claims merely require that an operator uses input means to “select any one of said plurality of communication modes available for communicating through said network facsimile device with the designated destination.” As shown above, Inniss clearly teaches this limitation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1-25 and 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,052,445 (Bashoura et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 6,437,871 (Yuki) and Inniss et al.

Regarding claim 1, Bashoura et al. teach a network facsimile device for communicating in at least one of a plurality communication modes for transmitting designated image information to a designated destination, said device comprising: input means for operator input of information identifying a plurality of destination addresses, including for each destination a plurality of address information respectively corresponding to said plurality of communication modes, and for designating one address among said plurality addresses to which the document image information is to be transmitted (column 3, line 63 - column 4, line 7., column 4, lines 15-20

(programming a table to store information inherently requires an operator to input the information intended to be stored)); and address information registering means for registering a plurality of address information respectively corresponding to said plurality of communication modes, input by the operator through said input means, for each destination (column 4, lines 8-20), wherein an operator uses said input means to (i) designate one of the plurality of destinations, and (iii) then request that the image information be transmitted to the corresponding address of the designated destination through the selected communication mode (in response to a dialed telephone number by a user, a communication mode is selected based on whether an address corresponding to a particular mode is stored (column 4, line 39 – column 5, line 13), and thus a destination (associated with the dialed telephone number) and communication mode (IP or e-mail address) is selected by designating an address (the telephone number dialed by the user)).

Scanner means for scanning a document and outputting document image information is provided in a local fax machine 1 connected to fax director 3 (Fig. 1). While the scanner means, input means and address information registering means are not located in a single device, such a limitation is disclosed in Yuki. Scanner means 2, input means (panel operation portion 1) and address information registering means (memory portion 5) are located within the facsimile apparatus shown in Fig. 1 of Yuki (column 3, lines 29-53). Since all of the components are provided in a single device, probability is enhanced; and a single device may be contained in a smaller area, thereby saving floor space. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary

skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bashoura et al. by combining the local fax machine, fax director and local computer in a single housing, such as disclosed in Yuki.

Bashoura et al. in view of Yuki do not appear to disclose (ii) select any one of said plurality of communication modes available for communicating through said network facsimile device with the designated destination. Inniss et al. teach a system for efficient message distribution, wherein a user selects communication modes in a priority order for transmission of a message to a destination (column 3, line 33 – column 4, line 5). The user clearly selects one of the communication modes for communication as a first priority, another of the communication modes for communication as a second priority, and so on (column 3, lines 36-40, 58-65). Selection of communication modes in this manner enables a user more flexibility in transmitting a message to a destination, as opposed to an automatic selection of the communication mode without user input. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bashoura et al. in view of Yuki by providing a means whereby a user can transmit messages to a destination based on a selected priority order, as disclosed in Inniss et al.

Regarding claims 2, 5 and 6, Bashoura et al. do not teach display means, wherein, when said input means is repeatedly operated at the time of designating the address, a plurality of address information registered are changed over and viewed on said display means in order, or one-touch dial means for enabling a large number of addresses to be registered and to designate the one address by operating the one-touch dial means. Yuki teaches a facsimile apparatus having a display means for

displaying a plurality of registered address information stored in one-touch dial memory (column 5, lines 51-57; column 6, lines 54-59). When one of the destinations is specified by operation of the panel operation portion, a copy operation begins (column 5, lines 56-60; column 6, lines 59-64). By providing a one-touch dial operation, a user may save time in dialing numbers that are frequently used, since only one key corresponding to the telephone number or IP address need be pressed. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bashoura et al., by providing a one-touch dial memory such as taught by Yuki. Repeated operation of input means is merely a scrolling operation for changing addresses or modes of operation on a display, which is well known in the art.

Regarding claim 3, Bashoura et al. in view of Yuki do not teach setting each of a plurality of address information registered by said address information registration means with a transmission priority indicating an order in which communication modes are to be used for transmitting the designated image information to the designated destination. Inniss et al. teach a system for efficient message distribution, wherein methods of communicating messages are prioritized (column 3, line 33 – column 4, line 5). By prioritizing the communication modes, the transmitting of any type of message may be performed with greater efficiency. A user may know which destinations are capable of operating under certain modes of communication, and may prioritize based on such knowledge so as to avoid possible errors in transmission. Thus, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bashoura et al.

in view of Yuki by providing means for setting a priority order for communicating messages, such as taught by Inniss et al.

Claim 4 further recites repeatedly operating the same key at the time of selecting the address, thereby changing over and selecting plural address information registered on said key in accordance with said transmission priority order. As mentioned above with respect to claim 2, repeated operation of input means is merely a scrolling operation for changing addresses or modes of operation on a display, which is well known in the art. Providing a key for changing and selecting address information according to a priority order would have been an obvious modification for one of ordinary skill in the art, for it allows a user to save time in changing priorities for each destination.

Claims 7 and 8 each recite the one-touch dial means of claims 5 and 6. As mentioned above, Yuki teaches a facsimile apparatus having a display means for displaying a plurality of registered address information stored in one-touch dial memory (column 5, lines 51-57; column 6, lines 54-59). When one of the destinations is specified by operation of the panel operation portion, a copy operation begins (column 5, lines 56-60, column 6, lines 59-64). By providing a one-touch dial operation, a user may save time in dialing numbers that are frequently used, since only one key corresponding to the telephone number or IP address need be pressed. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bashoura et al., by providing a one-touch dial memory such as taught by Yuki.

Regarding claim 9, Bashoura et al. teach a network facsimile device for communicating in at least one of a plurality of communication modes for transmitting designated image information to a designated destination, said device comprising: Internet image information communicating means for performing communication of image information through the Internet (column 2, lines 51-56); and public network image information communication means for performing communication of the image information through a public network, wherein said Internet image information communication means and said public network image information communicating means communicate information to a plurality of designated destinations (column 2, lines 56-61); input means for inputting information identifying a plurality of destination addresses, including for each destination a plurality of address information respectively corresponding to said plurality of communication modes, and for designating one address among said plurality of addresses to which the document image information is to be transmitted (column 3, line 63 – column 4, line 7; column 4, lines 15-20 (programming a table to store information inherently requires an operator to input the information intended to be stored)); and address information registering means for registering a plurality of address information respectively corresponding to said Internet image information communicating means and public network image information communicating means, for each designated destination (column 4, lines 8-20), wherein an operator uses said input means to (i) designate one of the plurality of destinations, and (iii) then request that the image information be transmitted to the corresponding address of the designated destination through the selected communication mode (in

response to a dialed telephone number by a user, a communication mode is selected based on whether an address corresponding to a particular mode is stored (column 4, line 39 – column 5, line 13), and thus a destination (associated with the dialed telephone number) and communication mode (IP or e-mail address) is selected by designating an address (the telephone number dialed by the user).

As mentioned above with respect to claim 1, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bashoura et al. by combining the local fax machine, fax director and local computer in a single housing, such as disclosed in Yuki.

As mentioned above with respect to claim 1, Bashoura et al. in view of Yuki do not appear to disclose (ii) select any one of said plurality of communication modes available for communicating through said network facsimile device with the designated destination. Inniss et al. teach a system for efficient message distribution, wherein a user selects communication modes in a priority order for transmission of a message to a destination (column 3, line 33 – column 4, line 5). The user clearly selects one of the communication modes for communication as a first priority, another of the communication modes for communication as a second priority, and so on (column 3, lines 36-40, 58-65). Selection of communication modes in this manner enables a user more flexibility in transmitting a message to a destination, as opposed to an automatic selection of the communication mode without user input. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bashoura et al. in

view of Yuki by providing a means whereby a user can transmit messages to a destination based on a selected priority order, as disclosed in Inniss et al.

Regarding claims 10 and 11, Bashoura et al. teach a network facsimile device for communicating in at least one of a plurality of communication modes for transmitting designated image information to a designated destination, said device comprising: electronic-mail type Internet image information communicating means for performing communication of the image information through the Internet by use of electronic mail (column 4, lines 27-38); real-time type Internet image information communicating means for performing communication of the image information through said Internet in real time (column 4, lines 21-26, 34-38); and public network image information communicating means for performing communication of the image information through a public network (column 2, lines 56-61), wherein any one of said electronic-mail type Internet image information communicating means, said real-time type Internet image information communicating means, and said public network image information communicating means communicates information to a plurality of designated destinations (column 4, line 43 - column 5, line 13); and input means for inputting information identifying a plurality of destination addresses, including for each destination a plurality of address information respectively corresponding to said plurality of communication modes, and for designating one address among said plurality of addresses (column 3, line 63 – column 4, line 7; column 4, lines 15-20 (programming a table to store information inherently requires an operator to input the information intended to be stored)); and address information registering means for registering a plurality of address information

respectively corresponding to said electronic-mail type Internet image information communicating means, said real-time type Internet image information communicating means, and said public network image information communicating means, for each designated destination (column 4, lines 8-20), wherein an operator uses said input means to (i) designate one of the plurality of destinations, and (iii) then request that the image information be transmitted to the corresponding address of the designated destination through the selected communication mode (in response to a dialed telephone number by a user, a communication mode is selected based on whether an address corresponding to a particular mode is stored (column 4, line 39 - column 5, line 13), and thus a destination (associated with the dialed telephone number) and communication mode (IP or e-mail address) is selected by designating an address (the telephone number dialed by the user)). Said plurality of registered address information include an e-mail address for use by said electronic-mail type Internet image information communicating means, an IP address for use by said real- time type Internet image information communicating means, and a telephone number for use by said public network image information communicating means (Fig. 4).

Scanner means for scanning a document and outputting document image information is provided in a local fax machine 1 connected to fax director 3 (Fig. 1). While the scanner means, input means and address information registering means are not located in a single device, such a limitation is disclosed in Yuki. Scanner means 2, input means (panel operation portion 1) and address information registering means (memory portion 5) are located within the facsimile apparatus shown in Fig. 1 of Yuki

(column 3, lines 29-53). Since all of the components are provided in a single device, portability is enhanced; and a single device may be contained in a smaller area, thereby saving floor space. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bashoura et al. by combining the local fax machine, fax director and local computer in a single housing, such as disclosed in Yuki.

As mentioned above with respect to claim 1, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bashoura et al. by combining the local fax machine, fax director and local computer in a single housing, such as disclosed in Yuki.

As mentioned above with respect to claim 1, Bashoura et al. in view of Yuki do not appear to disclose (ii) select any one of said plurality of communication modes available for communicating through said network facsimile device with the designated destination. Inniss et al. teach a system for efficient message distribution, wherein a user selects communication modes in a priority order for transmission of a message to a destination (column 3, line 33 – column 4, line 5). The user clearly selects one of the communication modes for communication as a first priority, another of the communication modes for communication as a second priority, and so on (column 3, lines 36-40, 58-65). Selection of communication modes in this manner enables a user more flexibility in transmitting a message to a destination, as opposed to an automatic selection of the communication mode without user input. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bashoura et al. in

view of Yuki by providing a means whereby a user can transmit messages to a destination based on a selected priority order, as disclosed in Inniss et al.

Claims 12-14 each recite the display means of claim 2, and thus are rejected for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 15-17 each recite the setting means of claim 3, and are thus rejected for the reasons set forth above.

Regarding claims 18-20, Bashoura et al. do not teach repeatedly operating the same key at the time of designating the address, thereby changing over and selecting, in order, a plurality of address information registered in said key, as mentioned above with respect to claim 2. However, repeated operation of input means is merely a scrolling operation for changing addresses or modes of operation on a display, which is well known in the art. Providing a key for changing and selecting address information in order would have been an obvious modification for one of ordinary skill in the art, for it allows a user to save time in changing address information. Accordingly, claims 18-20 are rejected for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 2.

Claims 21 and 25 each recite the one-touch dial means of claims 5 and 6, and thus are rejected for the reasons set forth above.

Claim 22 recites the features of above-rejected claim 10, and further recites the repeated operation of input means similarly recited in claim 20, and is thus rejected, for the reasons set forth above.

Claim 23 recites the features of above-rejected claim 10, and further recites registering respective transmission priority orders for each of said mail address, said IP

address, and said telephone number; wherein either one of said electronic-mail type Internet image information communicating means, said real-time type Internet image information communication means, and said public network information communicating means is selected in accordance with the transmission priority order respectively registered with said mail address, said IP address, and said telephone number, for image information transmission to the address selected by operation of said input means. As mentioned above with respect to claim 3, Inniss et al. teach a system for efficient message distribution, wherein methods of communicating messages are prioritized (column 3, line 33 - column 4, line 5). By prioritizing the communication modes, the transmitting of any type of message may be performed with greater efficiency. A user may know which destinations are capable of operating under certain modes of communication, and may prioritize based on such knowledge so as to avoid possible errors in transmission. Thus, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bashoura et al. and Yuki by providing means for setting a priority order for communicating messages, such as taught by Inniss et al.

Claim 24 recites most of the features of claim 23, and further recites repeated operation of input means, thereby changing over and selecting plural addresses in accordance with a transmission priority order. As mentioned above with respect to claim 4, providing a key for changing and selecting address information according to a priority order would have been a obvious modification for one of ordinary skill in the art, for it allows a user to save time in changing priorities for each destination. Accordingly, claim 24 is rejected.

Regarding claims 31-33, the one-touch dial means disclosed in Yuki, as mentioned above with respect to claims 5 and 6, enables operator use of said input means to designate one of the addresses registered for a destination to which the document image information is to be transmitted, and the document image information is transmitted to the designated address.

Regarding claim 34, Bashoura et al. in view of Yuki do not teach including for each address information, a corresponding priority value indicative of user preferences, and wherein an order in which the communication modes are to be used for transmitting the designated image information to the designated destination is determined according to the priority values corresponding to the respective communication modes. As mentioned above with respect to claim 3, Inniss et al. teach a system for efficient message distribution, wherein methods of communicating messages are prioritized (column 3, line 33 – column 4, line 5). By prioritizing the communication modes, the transmitting of any type of message may be performed with greater efficiency. A user may know which destinations are capable of operating under certain modes of communication, and may prioritize based on such knowledge so as to avoid possible errors in transmission. Thus, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bashoura et al. in view of Yuki by providing means for setting a priority order for communicating messages, such as taught by Inniss et al.

5. Claims 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bashoura et al. in view of Inniss et al.

Claims 26-28 are method claims corresponding to above-rejected apparatus claims 22-24, respectively. The method steps of the claims are either disclosed or would have been obvious in view of Bashoura et al. and Inniss et al. (note above rejections of claims 10 and 20, as well as claims 22-24). Note that the method claims do not require the scanning operation as well as the other operations to be performed in a single device, and thus the step of scanning a document and providing document image information based on the scanned document is performed by the local fax machine of Bashoura et al. (scanning is a standard feature of fax machines).

Claims 29 and 30 each also recite the one-touch dial means of claims 5 and 6, and thus are rejected as well, for the reasons set forth above.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 35 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: No prior art has been found to disclose or suggest a network facsimile device as defined in claim 1, "wherein one or more of the plurality of address information registered by said address information registering means is assigned a designation, said designation indicating whether the communication mode corresponding to the designated address information is to be inhibited," as recited in claim 35.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas D. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7436. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-5:00, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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tdl
August 8, 2007